AND NEW YORK PRESS.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1916.

DAILY, Per Month.
DAILY, Per Year.
SUNDAY, Per Month.
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SUNDAY, Per Year.
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year.
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month. PORMON RATES.

DAILY, Per Month. 1 23
SUNDAY, Per Month. 65
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month. 1 99

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If our friends who favor us with manuscript and illustrations for publication wish to hav rejected articles returned they must in al cases send stamps for that purpose.

TELEPHONE, BEEKMAN 1200. Explanations of Explanations.

The new model statesmanship at deferred. Imagine it administered by the Signers of the Immortal Document of July 4, 1776;

"We have learned from several quar ters that our recently promulgated Dec laration has created an erroneous im pression, which we hasten to correct. While still holding as self-evident . . we desire to have it understood that it was not our intention to intimate . . and we regret that our words were ope to any other construction."

Or imagine SEWARD and OLNEY explaining the Emancipation Proclamation and the Venezuela Message, and then explaining the explanations!

Time for Stock Taking.

The estimates by State depart ments and commissions of expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1917, reach the respectable total of \$80,-000,000. Governor Whitman and those associated with him P the dreary task of conserving the taxpayers' pocketbook hope to cut this by \$17,000,000. If their best intentions are fulfilled the appropriations for 1917-18 will exceed those for 1916-17 by \$4,000,000, and exceed the estimated revenues by \$18,000,000. As the possibilities of indirect taxation have apparently been about exhausted a direct levy of \$18,000,000 will be necessary.

Some of the Items going to make up this total admit of no argument. The State debt service is forced up by \$2,295,000; judgments call for \$1,100,-000; the high cost of foodstuffs will make the feeding of State charges about \$1,000,000 more than its cost this year. These are samples from an unpromising list. The situation Census "Estimates of Population. is disheartening to the man who foots others. Nor is it easy to see how any individual can be blamed. Perhaps we know there is favoritism in the distribution of the spoil. But the electors themselves have acquiesced in or demanded the expenditures that are made, and they have not even shown any interest in projects for those checks on waste that might be applied through enlightened business methods. Chairman Sage of the Senate Finance Committee puts the facts succinetly:

"The only way to institute economy in regard to these [public] institutions is by careful systemization and coordinatien of their activities,

"The only way outside of this for the State to save money in the future is to ties and to cease creating new ones.

"The report presents to the taxpayers of the State in concrete form the question, 'Do we wish to involve the State in new activities which cost large amounts of money, or have we reached the point where we shall pause, take stock of what we are doing, and adopt measures to conserve and consolidate what we already have?"

In other words, if we have not ac tually reached the end of our rope we are too close to it for comfort, and the duty of the State and its people is to refrain from new Government enterprises until they find out what they are now doing and how much the development of their present undertakings will cost.

The Prima Donna Again. singers of important rôles in opera that came from Italy. That country, traditionally the home of all opera Worcester, 163,314; Richmond, 156,687. singers, has rarely failed to supply the world with a great tenor. Be- But they are of the slightest importhere was Tamagno, and a little bit ture is revealed by their sponsors, earlier there was Masini, who was unique in never having come to this country. But the Italian singers who have gained an international reputation within the past score of years have been men.

the so-called Italian repertory were in the post." sung by Polish, Australian, American In other words, anybody who has THE SUN and am a firm believer in the and French singers. During the the requisite training in arithmetic old saying. If you see it in THE SUN golden days of the history of the and the time to waste can go through it's so." Metropolitan Opera House there were the operations of subtraction, multionly Italian singers in more or less plication and addition that are per. BERNETORFF as saying: 'Now I am per-

pranos there were few.

high praise for the young Italians country to bring fame to their native art abroad.

It is characteristic of operatic his-THE EVENING SUN, Per Month..... 300 tory that just as there seems little or The census has grown to be THE EVENING SUN, Per Year..... 3 00 no possibility of a brilliant light apmighty and expensive thing. pearing on the horizon there is suddenly a supply from some unexpected source for the existing demand. But it is one of the peculiarities of musical history that the great women singers who are so rare to-day should have come out of Italy, which had produced but one or two in a score of preceding years.

Distant Rumblings of Scandal.

The idea that any person high in the Administration or nearly connected with any person high in the Administration was concerned or Wednesday or Thursday in a manipulation of the stock market is too abhorrent to be considered, except to Washington is an amendment too long dispel. Yet a resolution is now introduced in the House demanding a legislative investigation to determine whether the abhorrent supposition just stated is indeed a fact.

This abhorrent supposition is part ly based on the extraordinary discrepancy between the first and second explanations of the President's note which were put forth on Thursday by Secretary LANSING.

Yesterday afternoon our neighbor the Brooklyn Eagle, a newspaper friendly to the President and loyal not an exotic atmosphere—that can in its support of the Democratic cause, pointed out the irreparable and unnecessary damage done on that day to values in the market by Mr. LANSING'S first statement. The Eagle went so far as to say:

"Either it should be made perfectly plain that Mr. LANSING spoke without sufficient warrant, in which case his further usefulness in the State Depart ment must be scriously questioned, o all the information needed for a cleaunderstanding of the situation [as to the 'verge of war'l as it actually exists should be laid before the public."

The resolution in the House is introduced by a reputable and honor able member, Mr. Woop of Indiana who, although a Republican, canno be suspected of a partisan motive in suggesting so serious a step. Insumuch as the suspicion referred

seems to be notoriously prevalent in Washington, however unjust i may be, we should say that the friends of the Administration in Congres could do no friendlier deed than to join in promoting the inquiry as the best means of squelching scandal.

At regularly recurrent intervals the bill, particularly so to the man in this nation is blessed with compila-New York city who bears his own tions of alleged population statistics ton which to the careless reader ap pear to mean something. The fact there are thieves in the State service; is that they have as much significance as the abstractions of any competent mathematician, and are worthless except as they provide harmles amusement for persons who have nothing better to do than to study them. The latest of these computations occupies half a column in the Evening Post, and contains the sub joined illuminating declarations:

> "The population of the United States continues to shift to me cities, accord-

"The estimates, based on the rate of population increases from 1900 to 1910, disclosed that 40.9 per cent, of the country's inhabitants now live in cities of more than 8,000, as against 38.9 per cent, in 1910.

"The entire population of continental United States for 1916 has already been estimated at 102,017,312.

"The total in the States, Territories and United States possessions is put at 112,444,620.

"The populations of some leading cities as estimated to-day are: New York, 5,602,841; Chicago, 2,497,722; Philadelphia, 1,709,518; St. Louis, 757,309; Boston, 756,476; Cleveland, 674,073; Baltimore, 589,621; Pittsburg, 579,090; Detroit, 571,784; Buffalo, 468,558; San Francisco, 463,516; Milwaukee, 436,535; Cincinnati, 410,476; Newark, 408,894; New Orleans, 371,747; Washington, 363,-980; Minneapolis, 363.454; Seattle, 348,-639; Jersey City, 306.345; Kansas City, 297,847; Portland, Ore., 295,463; Indianapolis, 271,708; Denver, 260,800; Roch-For more years than probably the ester, 256,417; Providence, 254,960; present generation of operagoers can St. Paul. 247,232; Louisville, 238,910; remember there have been few women | Columbus, 214,878; Oakland, 191,694; Toledo, 191,554; Atlanta, 190,558; Bir-

> These figures look very impressive who are quoted thus:

> mingham, 181,762; Omaha, 165,470;

"Census officials were careful to explain that these estimates do not take into consideration local conditions, and that they are based solely on the rate All the time the leading rôles in of the population increase or decrease

tain the same results that are put Now there has come a change over forth therefrom with such show of

the face of the operatic world, for authority. The actual increase in who speaks perfect English, used the whereas there had been only a single population between two enumerations colorature soprano during the past may be accepted as the basis for estiscore of years to bring distinction to mating, or the percentage of increase the distaff side of the operatic art in may appeal as more interesting. The Italy, there have recently come into estimates for January 1, 1919, might public notice several Italian artists of as well be made to-day as those for distinction. Not only here has the in- January 1, 1917, and they would be fluence of the modern Italian school precisely as accurate and valuable as of singers made its impression, but in if they were delayed until a month other American cities there is already before their seasonable application. Indeed, the estimates for every half who have suddenly come out of their year, or quarter, or month, or week, it. None of the refinements of Engmight be made when the count is completed and included in the decennial publications of the bureau.

The census has grown to be scarcely gets one count completed bedone. A great deal of the matter the the word "will" when "shall" was inis so ridiculous as the periodical "es- in the company of President Wilson maintaining permanently what should in his use of wills and shalls. be a temporary bureau of the Federal Government.

Our Obscurer Islands

The purchase of the Danish West Indies, while giving general satisfaction to the people of this country. does not advance the solution of the formidable difficulty which has long confronted patriotic American story tellers. We refer to the amazing paucity of information regarding various ittle islands already possessed by the United States.

Hawaii, the Philippines, American Samoa, even Guam, are all very well, but their size and population make them distinctly unsuited to the chief rquirement of fictioneers, which is be supplied-but a certain Crusoelike quality; in short, desert islands. And if the hero is to be a young and handsome American paval officer his appearance on the scene cannot well be accounted for unless he comes to plant the American flag and take posession in the name of Uncle SAM.

Now there are plenty of rocks and oral reefs in the Pacific which belong to this country, but the ordinary reference books do not even name them completely. A few may be recalled offhand; for example, Wake, Howland, Baker, Palmyra, Christmas, Marcus, Johnston, Gardner, Gallego Starbuck, Penrhyn, Phoenix and Mo rell. How is a novelist to utilize these places in the absence of fact about them? If he gives his imagination rein, some one who has been to the spot will turn up and contradict him, the exposure will be inserted, in the Congressional Record and the author's reputation will be gone forever.

There was recently a case in which the novelist carefully picked out Baker Island for his setting. It seemed to fulfil all the requirements. He could find out absolutely nothing about it, but then, neither could any one else. The exigencies of the plorequired the heroine to run five miles in an effort to escape the unwelcome attentions of the villain, who alone serial publication had nearly been bealready been released on the films, the author made the sickening discovery that Baker Island contains only about three-quarters of a square mile. So he stopped the camera man and took to drink, and both he and the heroine

were drowned. Some time earlier a writer with less excuse placed his pair on Midway Island, an interesting spot 2,792 miles from San Francisco. They were ab solutely alone, and everything hinged upon that point. The scenario was abandoned when the writer found out that Midway is a cable station inhabited by about forty persons, mostly telegraphers, who were ready to relay events to the rest of the world might have salvaged something from the ruin.

There have been other instances but these two will suffice. While we are adding to our insular possessions why not provide exact and accessible information about such islands as we

The Block Signal Set at Danger.

Beginning to-day the Ford Motor Company closes its Detroit plant for a week. The loss in production is approximately 17,500 cars of a value of perhaps \$7,000,000. Forty-two thousand men are made idle. Their week's wage is \$1,400,000.

This occurs because the railways entering Detroit are congested. Mr. Forn's products have to await the course must be moved first.

Such industrial dislocations will become everyday affairs if something is not done soon to ameliorate the harassing conditions under which the fore our contemporaneous Caruso tance. Their purely hypothetical na- railways of the country struggle to to have an army adequate for its proserve the country's needs.

In Extenuation of a German Diplomat's Small Sin. A friend in Philadelphia submit-

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: FOR

great number of years I have take "This morning you quote Count von

incidental rôles. Of tenors and so- formed in the Census Bureau and ob- fectly convinced that we will have a

One Joy Which the High Cost of Weaknesses Does Not Touch. "I shall be very glad to have you opinion, as it changes the whole sens

"PHILADELPHIA, December 21." Our correspondent is right in hi rating of the German Ambassador's English, for Count von BERNSTORFF speaks our language admirably for is attained by finding one's name on the one not born to its use, and he understands it even better than he speaks lish expression, none of the sinuosi ties of half concealed meaning, no even any of the slantendicular phrases Zealand; or the name may be taken a of half truth, escapes his acute and

It alert intelligence. Our correspondent is also technifore it begins another. We are not cally right in his criticism of the an irresistible flood. No use to try to sure that the work of 1910 is yet German Ambassador for employing enumerators, general and special, dicated by the sense to be conveyed. guther is useless. But none of the It must be remembered, however, that a personal call the next morning. As tables that have a foundation in fact Count von BERNSTORFF has been much the names are amassed from different timates" of this and that which are of late; and that the President, who fairly good. The letters frequently conferred on the nation to present to is superior, ex officio, to the rules of it some shadow of an excuse for syntax, is especially unconventional

word 'shall' in place of 'will'?

of the interview.

We do not for a moment believe that the germ of this solecism has infected the German Ambassador's English. We discern, rather, a diplomatic intention and perhaps a delicate personal compliment in his adoption of the Presidential style.

Mr. LANSING's predecessor as Sec admit eventually that he doesn't hold the record for indiscretion.

Perhaps some of the Wall Stree rokers, moved to compassion by the plight of their customers, will give conuses to sold out speculators.

Delay in getting letter boxes this town is explained as "due to inability to meet the wishes of the New York Art Commission." The New York Art Com poet knew what he was talking about when he said: "Art is long, and time

An exploring expedition under governmental auspices to find out where the stock ticker ticks might have an interesting experience.

The American mules that were sent to the French army have been silenced. has followed armies almost as long as there have been armies, trudging patiently along with camp equipments, yanking supply trains out of swiftest in retreat, but always voicing his remonstrance to his job. is hushed, though, now; science has cut out his bray as effectively as it

It makes him a better "critter" for war; but the innovation will not be popular back in Missouri where he says that it is useless I believe he came from. There it is his right to bray. t is no more disturbing than a man vawn. He is the "Missouri nightingale" to his admirers, and his trumpet call on the prairie is a reassurir signal that all is well.

Take a long walk, read a good book And smoke an old pipe to make the walk pleasanter, the book more enjoyable and the friend-well, a good deal depends on the friend.

Who but a Juvenal could do justice to the slippery sloppery facts of this village's street condition this week? QUINTUS FLACCUS is too mannerly to be adequate. It's hard to believe shipwreck. At the last moment, when we've "plus aloes quam mellis" in our cup of weather "inde caput morbi." gun and when the first episode had but "nunquam aliud natura, aliud two or three summers of training are in South America, not counting the lines sapientia dixit."

> There must be moments when California wonders why she did it.

SIDEWALK SNOW Additional Benefits of Partial of the Footways.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Th letter of Carl E. Pelz published under the heading "Sidewalks Too Clean?" makes an admirable suggestion. Mr. Pelz however, does not state one of the great est advantages of the plan.

Is carried out it would leave the snow in the roadways with an even surface tions even very deep snow is not a serious obstacle to traffic, and if the traffic before they could properly be un-is heavy the snow is rapidly compacted folded. Had this writer resorted to into reasonable smoothness, or else melts the device of the Greek chorus he much more freely than at present. The plan could not, of course, be applied where the sidewalks are more crowded than the roadways, but this is true or comparatively few streets.

The fact that the sidewalks would remain wet in thawing weather is of ortance, since the seas of slush through which we have to cross streets under present conditions take away all the benefits which result to the pedesrian from a dry sidewalk NEW YORK, December 22.

UNIVERSAL TRAINING. Only in It Can Adequate Defence of the

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It does not need General Scott or General Wood or anybody else to tell any maof ordinary intelligence that the experi ment of federalizing the National Guard is a lamentable failure. It was fore transport of food and fuel, which of Hay put his army bill through Congress e knew it would turn out a failure. He and others, including President Wilson did not want the country to be prepared. and devised the fraudulent army bill t defeat the wishes of the people.

There is but one way for this nation tection, and that is to adopt universal ompulsory military training. Every young man, rich or poor, be

tween the ages of eighteen and twenty one, unless physically incapacitated should be compelled to serve a year in the army, and then go on the reserve NEW YORK, December 22.

Mrs. Knicker-What did your husban

The Labor Scarcity Up the Hudson.

GETTING THE BIG MAIL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: There can hardly be a more amiable weakness than the pleasure of receiving a large high cost of weaknesses, it may be worth remarking that this pleasure investments to the public. The hon ting into print as a dummy director in a brewing enterprise, or receiving s Cousing of the Seminole War.

Rising as a tiny rivulet in the Ande A letter explaining that it is impossible of the flattering offer is answered by cal gardens sources, the chances of duplication are come in groups, sometimes running as foliage make it a desirable addition in high as five identical notes of a single any deciduous tree planting scheme. The sympathetic touch or attempt to touch that means dressed to Sandbean, Sunburn, Sand bag, Sandbum, Sambo and Hambone

obscured. I have received letters adway to the mausoleums of deceased are still to be seen growing there. Some telegram announcing that a julcy slice of melon has been reserved on ice, and the ice is melting fast. be some huge central mechanical dis- forming effective and picturesque feattributing plant from which this mon strous and inexorable literature is raliated into space. The circumstance no figure. In one case I wrote calling still living in Cambridge, Mass., who can eneficiary was an entirely different per 1894. ces by telephone and found in

To dispose of the growing intake I was fully developed, its height nearly have cut a hole into the chimney and installed a capacious Franklin stove. egan, for a back log, with the annual however, that a projected stone wall report of the Petrified Punk Mining elopments expected from the mother ode), flanked by six folio demonstradons of How to Make a Million in Cambridge If the supply of fuel Wall Street. uns short, I shall join the Fat Man's nurserymen for more general cultivation Club and open a delivery station for the and the planting of it by tree lovers publications of the Anti-Obesity League EDWIN W. SANBORN.

NEW YORK, December 21. THE GUARD NOT USELESS. and Plattsburg Hardly a Short Cut

to Military Efficiency. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The National Guard may be a little off color in spots, but when General Hugh Scott

General Scott says that it would have een folly, or words to that effect, to have taken the Guard into Mexico because of its lack of training and inbillty to stand long and forced marches. This may be true, but we must not der made several long marches in very good time, and generally, from a physi- exports have grown to hitherto uncal standpoint, the men held up splendidly. Personally I believe the training of the men in the Guard has been good, not a cause of small exports, as both papers, but I can assure you from first as saying that he has "served f

spectors will show In 1898 in the war with Spain the Massachusetts National Guard proved that the Guard was not useless.

nation just a trifle.

I know of several men who have taken
part in these training camps, and judgcent. rise in freight rates, but other ing from the work I have seen these factors entering into trade costs have men do I would say that it would take risen far more than 50 per cent. Again, at least ten to fifteen summers to whip them into shape. One case in particu-export trade. training camp last summer and the year teen lines already mentioned no less manual of arms. This young man is an and only six are British, and one of unusually bright chap, and when the these British lines is actually American militia was at the Mexican border he in ownership. was appointed a corporal, but owing to was not equal to the office it was nec- and Brazil Steamship Line, Barber &

WHITEHALL, December 21.

"BELLISONANT"?

Request That Mr. Dewell Define His Characterization.

James D. Dewell, Jr., says that chewing gum does not interfere with woman's bellisonant" voice. I could not find this word in the dictionary and would

like to know just what he means. I This last is American owned but ophad quite a discussion with another per-son regarding it, one of us maintaining meant "bell toned," or "soft," and exporters have not increased their trade the other saying it meant "war sound in South America in recent years, your paid employees that you suggest, who not accepted, nothling was heard in E ing." or "loud." It may be that the attention is called to the figures issued must eke out their existence by other Paso of such a shallenge, and a least the same of the figures issued must eke out their existence by other paso of such a shallenge, and a least the same of the figures issued must eke out their existence by other paso of such a shallenge and a least the same of the figures is such as the same of the same of the figures is such as the same of the same word "bellisonant" means "war sound- by the Department of Commerce show- means. I should say that the average ing" or "threatening," but is it used cor- ing that for the ten months ended wages paid our superintendents are over challenge across a space of the

Boston Beatific.

Hot on her hills, exempt from chills, the Hub revolves this morning; Her outer rim, all tight and trim, is ready Of Sunday tires her banded choirs, so

Upon its rod the Sacred Cod like Phorbus acintillates now;
The River Charles no longer snarls, but smooths itself for skates now; The whole Back Bay views with dismay the beaks of Beacon Hillery

shining star is every bar that beckeneth and kindly fate refuses straight to make In Scotlay Square each passengaire swaps punches with his fellows,

Now hand in hand leap Hacohus and his gang of gay bacchantes; The bluehful grape in perfect shape is raising—something Dante's; John Barleycorn enwreathes the born the Abstinence was tossed on; The Dem on Rum wins out, by gum! it

PLANT THE SASSAFRAS! It Is One of Our Most Beautiful and Useful Native Trees.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: AT act of vandalism recently committed on the grounds of Colonel Roosevelt at Bay and reported in THE SUN involved the destruction of a fine sassa edly and highly prized by its owner Reading the account of it called THE SUN'S perennial springtime tribute to an interesting native, by way of th from a favorite contributor. The sassafras, Sassafras officinale, like our com mon chestnut, hickory, beech, cedar, &c., has been the best know may be said to be no longer comm by failure assiduously to cultivate and plant them, or the widespread destruction by noxious insects, fungi, &c. If more planting is not done we shall come to viewing types of some of these as

The sassafras is an interesting tree tirely aside from which, however, it any deciduous tree planting scheme The curious feature of variety in the leaves on the same tree should greatly children, which I have ofter

found to be the case. The tree does no occasionally fine specimens are to be found, as was the tree at Sagamore Hill. In the South much larger tree readers familiar with our old country roads will recall the little groupings to the sassafras and cedar usually, and ures of the landscape. Subsequent road improvements, alas, did not include the possible preservation of these simple ad juncts of beauty. There may be those remember a fine specimen of our native sassafras growing there. It deserve a better fate than that which hannen Early in the morning I received to it. The tree had attained a diameter feet in circumference, and fortunately growing apart from other trees its form I characteristic beauty was sacrificed of a straight line, as we were taught in our youth, the shortest distance tween two points. This happened is

> I would recommend the sassafras t nor should we be unmindful of the pos nut and the preservation of the hickor and our maples. JOHN Y. CULYER. NEW YORK, December 20.

SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE. n Exposition of the Transportation

Facilities From the United States. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: ME aurence Ottinger's letter and your ed torial remarks thereon give your read ers the impression that the shipping facilities between North and South America are inadequate and that our exports to South America are therefor not increasing as they should.

is a general shortage of shipping all precedented volume, and the scarcity of as reports of many of the United States, Mr. Ottinger and THE SUN appear to

In proportion to the demand it is probable that the freight space avail- and individuals of standing. At least, England militiamen. able for South America is greater than certainly not with their knowledge, as a large bill for any battery to fill The General tells what a good thing the for any other market, due to various stated in this article. Plattsburg training camp is, I realize that conditions, including the large cargoes

How much of a "tip top" shape to act as defenders of operating to the nearby Caribbean ports

was a member of the Plattsburg lines to South America. Of the sevenefore, who cannot properly execute the than six are American, five are neutral Long established American lines to

fact that his military knowledge South America are the United States essary to reduce him to the grade of Co., Inc., Merchants Line, New York and A new American line is the American Transatlantic Company.

Long established neutral lines are Lloyd Brazileiro (Brazilian), Funch, Edye & Co. (Danish). New neutral lines are Kerr Steamship Line, Busk Daniels and Commercial South American Line. Long established British lines are the

Prince Line, Lamport & Holt Line, Houston Lines, Houlder, Weir & Boyd, erates British vessels.

As regards the supposition that our husiness. rectly in this instance? Woman's voice is seldom spoken of as being loud, harsh or war sounding.

Passaic, N. J., December 22.

Beston Bestific.

October 20, 1916, our exports to South 1910 a month when the value of their is seldom spoken of as being loud, harsh America were valued at \$179,741,000, the inference that the employers, be for any previous ten months record. The growth for ten months ending October himself, receive remuneration from this location. for the past few years is shown by the source, it is hardly worthy of denial.

FRANKLIN JOHNSTON, Publisher American Exporter. NEW YORK, December 21.

Not a Meal, Not Even a Collation.

interesting editorial "America's Most Famous Meals" I con fess to surprise at the absence even in benerable mention of good Dr. Lyman Abbott's second cup of coffee. NEW YORK, December 22.

> The Law of Gravity Newton discovered what made the app!

Goodness Gracious, Passale: Headline Passete Dally News

THE GENERAL PURPOSE OF PRESIDENT WILSON'S NOTE COMMENDED.

Its Appeal to the Belligerents to Negotiate for Peace a Proper First Sten Toward Permanent Cessation of Armed Enmittee.

the vast importance of President Wil- ful haracter that the writer has no sharply defined line of action in view, or is to provide a way, by means of explanaor criticism The general purpose of Mr. Wilson's

No greater blessing imaginable could peace should be restored without furbloodshed and destruction. fighting nations are as anxious for this as we are; in fact, more anxious. The open question is only one of "terms and conditions." If onceded, then it inevitably follows that peace can only come by virtue of such exhaustion of one side or the other that negotiation is useless for the vanquished, or as the result of an earlier agreement in respect of "terms and conditions." Manifestly no agree ment can be reached without a knowl edge of proposals and counter pro-posals. Each side has stated its desire for peace, and each side is skirmishing for position before discussing the terms of peace. Germany gives warning that they must not be so severe as to amount to a dental of her right to future expansion along legiti mate lines. The Allies, on the other hand, say that there must be complet restitution, complete reparation and complete guaranties for the future peace of Europe, without defining what would be considered a compliance with these requirements. Each side is left by the other in the dark, while each ofesses at least to desire to seek the light. What more opportune time then could there be than now for the inter position of outside aid?

We, detached as we are in a sense. are influenced in our opinions of th relative responsibilities of the conending nations by the circumstance that we believe Germany to have been the aggressor for selfish puroses, and that her conduct of the war has been in violation of the rules of human and divine law. If it be a future secure against the possibili true, as apparently it is, that what is referred to as the military casts of That can be done only by trying Prussia is chargeable with these do it. Charles E. Rushmone

It is difficult for ordinary people to crimes, and that the people of Gernderstand why a communication of many have acted only under its bale. influence and command, then one son's letter to the belligerents in of the objects at least—the one is son's letter to the belligerents in Europe should be so expressed as to leave legitimate doubt as to its true leave legitimate doubt as to its true meaning in all respects. One always sian power be removed. Is it true feels in reading a document of this that this can be accomplished only by the further killing of the German ly defined line of action in view, or is people until the nation itself has lost not sure of his own ground, and wishes its vitality and ability to resist May not discussion of terms and contion, to meet possible adverse reception | ditions presented in concrete form and discussed aloud result in the German in the negotiations as factors inde letter is, of course, obvious, and with general purpose every right minded person should be in sympathy. We must not blind ourselves to the

fact that the objects of the Allies are to the world at large than that not entirely altruistic or unselfish. They are not fighting for the benefit of civilization alone. We have but recently read of an agreement between England, France, Italy and Russia that Russia is to have Constantinople and. to strengthen her hold upon it, that the Turk is to be excluded from Europe Russia's statesmen have given sufficient evidence that the goal of her am bition for which she is fighting lies there. Italy entered the war to wree: back the Trentino from Austria. A redistribution of Balkan territory was promised as an inducement to Rumania to take up arms. While France not seek a conflict for selfish reasons nevertheless we must have in mind that when the guns were heard within the Belgian lines the call for a reconquest of Alsace and Lorraine rent the air of France. With England's champlouship of the cause of weaker nanational existence through the prevention of Germany's extension of her coast line in the north or her territoris expansion within striking distance of Egypt and India,

The President's letter must be to terpreted in the light of these facts influence of the war is acting, and will act, upon us so acutely that we have the right, not only in the general cause of humanity and of civiliza tion but of our own special interests ments abroad that they make an earnest effort to open the way for negotiations looking to the cessation of hostilities and to the outlook ! of a recurrence of this awful strife

THE JANITOR'S GRAFT. Managers of First Class Properties Refuse to Tolerate It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: There s an editorial article in Tue Sun of December 21 to which I take great exception. It is headed "Perquisites of the Superintendent, Ex-Janitor," and it re- of New York," having been sent me fers to the discussion which has arisen may interest your military readers lately as to the grafting by superin- know the facts. tendents in modern apartment houses As to a statement that the on the various tradesmen who supply of marking is unfair, it is on the tenants in the buildings. This prace so far as my knowledge goes agree tice may exist in some of the old fash- that a better and more ou loned flats operated by small owners tem could and should be used. and in the minds of the editors of comic hand knowledge that it does not exist in with men who knew how to the modern high class structures in charge of reputable agents or estates tical mechanics than any

We make a specialty of the manage. Boston batteries, since there has nev bleb class apartment houses been more than on Fifth and Park avenues and adjacent type) is made up largely of college or any one believes that these men after ships operating between New York and side streets, and have between thirty but these men have excelled in the and forty in our charge. We have con- required by the militia bure stantly recognized the possibility of served their bit, all that has been ask our country I think he stretches imagi- of South America, all of which lines grafting by superintendents, and every of them, on the border, and if all superintendent in our employ knows counts received are true they ba that if he is caught in the act of ac- served it at least with as much ecepting any gratuities from tradesmen as any National Guard batteries. But or in trying to influence the tenants' tery A of Boston was considered the ourchases his services will immediately best hattery that ever came to to e dispensed with.

Owing to the discussion recently in the papers we have again sent out to a country battery with headquarters lar, which comes to my mind now, is of Mr. Ottinger states that there is a the papers we have again sent out to a country batter; with headinaries a young man about twenty years old lack of American or other competitive all of our superintendents the following some small Massachusetts lower and the

In connection with the articles appearing in the various New York papers in in which the Massachusetts butteries are desire publicly to state that to the seat of our knowledge and onditions do not exist in the buildings tery A; Worcester, 166,733 populate

tract their patronage such superintendent

F. The latter three batteries have been will be immediately discharged.

formed within the year

cased to exist. We are not alone in sylvania, New Mexico and Illinois a this stand and feel that all other high rated above New York's hest. lass agents and owners are striving for the same end. The competition for the business of out, but it seems comarkable to

superintendent was practising this means officers, no gunners of any class for gr for increasing his income the owner's sections or for special details Superintendents are not the poorly Massachuseits organization

In conclusion I would call your atten- don't know the subject of the 1916 \$175,741,800 tion to the great advance made in the lecture that provoked the 1915 115,454,000 methods of handing real estate before climate of Mississippi, but if the 1913 124,602,000 which time such an article might have was as ignorant of his subject 1912 114,275,000 been pertinent. The real estate pro-The supposed lack of shipping facili- fession now attracts some of the best it makes very little deferrite ties to South America is a fallacy which brains and most high class men in the subject was For example dies hard. The Sen ought to help kill community, and it is no longer a refuge "the only human thing that ever for those who have falled in other pur- in Mississippi was flooked sults. It requires years of study, ex- ton." Booker never lived in Miperience and hard work as well as but at Tuskegee, Ala And h a thoroughly equipped organization to "General Phil Sher dan, who came handle the modern and highly compli- my part of broland, said. &-

> DOUGLAS L. ELLIMAN. NEW York, December 32.

University Extension to California From the Santa Ana Blade. The next of the series of university ex-tension lectures to be given at San Diego will be on the subject: "Raja Togs ver-

NATIONAL GUARD GUNNERS

Bay State Batterles Resented. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir clipping from THE SUN of November regarding gunners' rating, the head being "Gun Ratings Anger Guardsme

As to a statement that the guns better and knew more about a

Tobybanna school. The officer says that "you could to plenty of men who have been hanging cities: Boston, 763,522 population, ft nder our control.

Rattery R. Lawrence, 91 111 population of four tenants will quote instances Rattery C. Lynn. Salem and Rever where a superintendent has tried to at 160,020 population, Batteries D. E at

In addition to these precautions we | Your informant seems to be tealer covery of the existence of this evil and since he says nothing about batteries feel quite certain that it has practically Rhode Island, Unit. Minnesota, Peni

good as this retired officer would make management is so keen that if the com-petitor could show the owner that his clency of officers and non-commission

outfight, outshoot and outro-

BOSTON. December 11

cated plants existing in both apartment | General Sheridan never care and business buildings. All the large land at all, but was born to real estate offices employ expert en-gineers and men of special training for that the United States south of the purpose. It is improbable that under these conditions the petty grafting you refer to can exist for long.

Carolina," stood up meetry and the coldiers from more northern climet theluding some from the do for a of Ireland." I have heard it said it is a very and think to man, and the doctor trier to be man, and the sarcastic.

Stima, Ata., December 18.